

New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital.—A special department of Facial Palsy has been established at the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital for teaching purposes, with clinics every Thursday at 2 o'clock. This department is in charge of Dr. Thomas G. Tickle and his staff.

Hospital Gives Flowers Along with Medicine.—The University of California Medical Center has just prescribed a bouquet of flowers once a week to every patient in both hospital and public clinics.

Impressed by the peace of mind, the atmosphere of beauty and the general comfort that flowers bring to the sick, the staff of the Center has entered heartily into the activity of its volunteer unit in supplying fresh seasonal blooms for every tray. So far as is known, this is the only hospital in the country that has made the regular distribution of flowers a part of its routine.

So quickly has the idea "caught on" and so much benefit has resulted thus far, that the unit is now planning a "wild flower day," on which every patient will be given a bouquet or a spray fresh from California's verdant hillsides. It is hoped to hold this day in the early spring.

The flowers are now being obtained from the homes of many of the doctors, who bring the blossoms to the hospitals along with their instrument cases, from the gardens of many friends of the Center and from the grounds of the Center itself, portions of which are beautifully landscaped. The activity is under the direction of Mrs. Philip Caxon, head of the volunteer unit.

The unit is composed of volunteer women workers who devote their spare time to aiding the sick and distressed. Thus far it has been enabled to obtain enough flowers once a week for every patient. Most of the patients take every precaution to keep each bouquet as fresh as possible until the next bouquet arrives, so that they will have flowers at their bedside at all times. Even the most "desperate" cases seem able to obtain rest and comfort from the flowers, Mrs. Caxon reports.

The regular arrival of the bouquets is proving a boon particularly to the clinic patients, many of whom are unable to raise gardens or have any flowers of their own.

Sale of Certain Rodents Restricted in California.—Because chipmunks, golden mantled squirrels, and other rodents have been found to suffer from plague, the California State Board of Public Health has imposed restrictions upon the sale of such rodents as indicated in the following resolution of the board, issued August 17, 1937. The general public is advised not to handle such rodents, and dealers are warned that the requirements of this order must be observed:

"WHEREAS, It has been determined that plague infection has been found to exist in chipmunks in certain areas in California and other western states, and furthermore, it has been determined that this infection may be transmitted to man; and

"WHEREAS, It has become urgent to take all necessary precautions to prevent the transmission of plague infection to human beings as well as to protect this state in its sanitary relation with other states and countries; therefore,

"Be it ordered, under the authority vested in the Director of Public Health by Sections 2979 and 2979a of the Political Code of California, and the Public Health Act of this state, as amended, that the shipment or sale of chipmunks and/or golden mantled squirrels or other wild rodents be prohibited unless said chipmunks or golden mantled squirrels or other wild rodents are held in quarantine for a period of two weeks prior to date of shipment or sale, in either domestic or foreign trade. During this period of quarantine said animals are to be maintained in individual cages and any animal dying during the period of observation shall not be destroyed but shall be reported at once to the local health officer. The health officer shall thereupon communicate with the State Department of Public Health for instructions regarding the shipment of the animal to the state laboratory for examination. If any chipmunks and/or golden mantled squirrels or other wild rodents have been trapped in the same general area in which an animal has been found to be plague-infected, the entire consignment shall be destroyed."

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the lay press, on matters related to medical practice, follow:

Dr. Frank F. Barham Heads University of Southern California Alumni

Dr. Frank F. Barham, publisher of *The Evening Herald and Express*, today had been chosen president of University of Southern California's mighty Alumni Association.

Doctor Barham was declared elected and was installed at the annual meeting of the board of directors last night. He will serve during the academic year of 1938-39, succeeding Dr. Carl Howson, who was president during the past year.

Doctor Barham, long active in affairs of the General Alumni Association at University of Southern California, won distinction in 1936 when he served as chairman of the committee conducting Homecoming Week. Last year Doctor Barham held the office of president-elect.

The new alumni president is a graduate of University of Southern California School of Medicine and was a member of the class of 1906.

In his new position Doctor Barham will lead the activities of fifty thousand University of Southern California alumni members scattered throughout the world. There are Trojan alumni clubs in Paris, Hawaii, New York, Manila and the Orient, and in almost every city of any size in the United States.—*Los Angeles Evening Herald*, June 30.

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Tuberculosis Doctors Elect

Livermore Physician President

Los Angeles, June 22.—(AP)—Dr. Chesley Bush of Livermore today was elected president of the National Tuberculosis Association, succeeding Dr. J. Arthur Myers of Minneapolis.

Dr. Frederick T. Lord of Boston and Dr. Paul P. McCain of Sanatorium, North Carolina, were named vice-presidents. Honorary vice-presidencies went to President Roosevelt and Dr. Henry D. Chadwick of Boston. . . .

The convention heard Dr. W. P. Shepard, of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, San Francisco, urge tuberculosis examination as a part of every school program.

"No proper school health or public health program can afford to overlook tuberculosis," Doctor Shepard said. He placed the average cost of a general health program at \$1.70 per pupil per year, and said tuberculin testing, x-ray, and follow-up of positive reactors would increase that figure to about \$2.30.—*San Francisco Examiner*, June 23.

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Chief Surgeon Walter B. Coffey Retires; Is Succeeded by Dr. Calvin A. Walker as Hospital Department Head

More than forty-two years' association with Southern Pacific's Hospital Department, the last twelve years as chief surgeon and manager, came to a close for Dr. W. B. Coffey on July 1 when he retired under the company's pension system to be succeeded by Dr. Calvin A. Walker.

Holding high rank in Pacific Coast medical circles and internationally known for contributions he has made to the advancement of his profession, Doctor Coffey was honored with a banquet at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco on June 27 attended by 180 medical associates and railroad officers, when the retiring chief lauded the fine support received for so many years from members of his staff.

Southern Pacific was the nation's first railroad to establish, in 1867, a hospital department for the exclusive use of its employees. Down through the years the services of the department and excellency of its facilities have been expanded and improved under the direction of a succession of distinguished chief surgeons that included Drs. A. B. Nixon, T. W. Huntington, Mathew Gardner, F. K. Ainsworth, and the now retiring W. B. Coffey.

In recent years the Hospital Department has been favored with very generous financial gifts from Edward S. Harkness, one of Southern Pacific's directors, which funds Chief Surgeon Coffey has used in equipping the General Hospital at San Francisco and the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Tucson with facilities for research, treatment, and surgery that establish those institutions as the finest maintained for employees by any industrial organization in the country, perhaps in the world.

Doctor Coffey has been a staunch advocate of the periodic "check up" for officers and employees so that ailments may be detected and treated before they cause serious damage to health.

The retiring chief surgeon graduated from Cooper Medical College, now Stanford University Medical School, in 1889, since which time he has practiced continuously in San Francisco. He became district surgeon for Southern Pacific in January, 1896; was appointed division surgeon in October, 1905, and assistant chief surgeon in August, 1923, succeeding Chief Surgeon Ainsworth on his retirement in August, 1926. He was a founder of the St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco in 1905, and is now president of that organization. Prior to taking over the duties of chief surgeon for Southern

Pacific, Doctor Coffey held the same position with the Market Street Railway. He was one of the organizers and was first president of the Pacific Association of Railway Surgeons.

Doctor Coffey will continue his active practice and research work in San Francisco.

Doctor Walker has been actively connected with the General Hospital in San Francisco almost continuously since graduating from Cooper Medical College in 1905. He was in Europe for several months during that year taking postgraduate work in various cities, and returned in July to become an intern in the railroad's general hospital. Following the earthquake and fire of 1906 he was transferred with patients to Sacramento where he became assistant surgeon in July, 1906. In November that year he returned to San Francisco as emergency surgeon for the district south of Market Street, and in January, 1910, was appointed district surgeon in that city. For four years prior to joining the United States Army Medical Corps in April, 1918, he had been a visiting surgeon for the company in San Francisco. At the time the armistice was signed he was ready to sail for France as commander of Field Hospital No. 234. Returning to Southern Pacific in May, 1919, he resumed the duties of visiting surgeon; was appointed Coast Division surgeon in February, 1927, and has been supervisor of surgical services at the General Hospital since May, 1936.

For several years Doctor Walker has been a member of the medical staff of the Market Street Railway, also handling the industrial surgical work of the California Street Cable Railway, and is a director of the St. Francis Hospital.—*Southern Pacific Bulletin*, July, 1938.

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FERA, New Deal Agency, Dead*

Congressional Lease of Life Ends for Once Big Spender

Washington, June 30.—(AP)—A bookkeeper drew a double red line in a ledger in the WPA office here today, and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, one of the oldest and richest agencies of the New Deal, gave up the ghost.

Its cash register once sang to the tune of \$1,000,000,000 per annum. But when its Congressional lease on life ran out at the end of the fiscal year today its assets amounted to only \$250,000. This automatically goes to the Treasury to pay any claims on the FERA estate.

FERA was born on May 22, 1933, when a young social worker from New York, Harry Hopkins, came to Washington and was made administrator of the new agency, which was to distribute Federal funds to the states, chiefly for direct relief.

Young Hopkins took over an office in the crowded RFC Building, sat down and started the career of FERA.—*San Francisco Examiner*, June 31.

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July 4 Death Toll Reaches 476 in Nation

Twenty-two Fatalities in California

America's three-day Independence celebration by last night had taken a toll of 476 lives—eight of them in northern California—with scores of others so critically injured that a final count this morning may bring the total close to last year's record of 563 deaths.

There were twenty-two deaths throughout California.

A national survey of the casualties by the Associated Press chalked up 245 auto traffic deaths, 126 more in drownings, twelve killed by trains, twenty-three dead in shootings, nineteen suicides, only three from fireworks, and forty-seven from various other causes.—*San Francisco Examiner*, July 5, 1938.

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Doctors Study Venereal Diseases

State to Pay Students During Course

Twelve young physicians today started the first postgraduate training course in venereal disease control at the University of California, Dr. Malcolm H. Merrill, chief of the state's Bureau of Venereal Diseases, said.

Under a \$12,000 grant from the State Department of Health, they will be paid during the three months they attend classes and during the next nine months of field clinics.

They will then be employed by the Bureau of Venereal Diseases in clinics throughout the state.

Those taking the course include:

Drs. Katherine H. MacEachern, E. Glenn Wood, and William F. Conrad, Los Angeles; Edward Hirschberg and Carl P. Jensen, Fresno; James W. Moreland, San Bernardino; H. C. Pulley and Helen Mackler, San Francisco; W. L. Turner and Russell Frantz, Santa Barbara; Philip K. Condit, Oakland; and Chester M. Weseman, Sacramento.—*San Francisco News*, July 5, 1938.

* FERA was the agency that allocated Federal funds for the "California Medical Economic Survey."

Old Age Pensioners in California

Sacramento, July 5.—(AP)—Cost of old age assistance continues to mount, statistics of the State Department of Social Welfare indicate.

The total for May of this year was \$3,748,021, compared with \$3,606,284 for April. A year ago the May total was only \$2,379,678.

There are 116,040 individuals receiving old age assistance. The average payment per person is \$32.53.

Just before the old age law was liberalized, it was tentatively estimated that the normal increase which could be expected due to greater numbers of persons attaining the requisite age would be 20 per cent a year.

Lowering of the age limits and the years of residence have accounted for the greater part of the big increase in the total number receiving financial assistance since the pension was established.

47,092 on Roll at Los Angeles

As recently as June, 1935, there were only 21,310 persons in the entire state drawing old age pensions. Los Angeles County alone now has 47,092 on its rolls.

The ten counties with the next largest number receiving old age aid are:

San Francisco, 8,285; Alameda, 6,981; San Diego, 5,709; San Bernardino, 3,973; Santa Clara, 3,094; Fresno, 2,760; Sacramento, 2,917; Riverside, 2,695; Orange, 2,483; and San Joaquin, 2,161.

All of the other counties have fewer than two thousand on their lists.

Sparsely settled Alpine County has only eleven old age pensioners; Mono has only sixty-two. The latter's average payment at \$35 a person, is the highest for the state.

Those having between 1,000 and 2,000 are: Humboldt, 1,218; Butte, 1,434; Kern, 1,400; Santa Barbara, 1,058; Santa Cruz, 1,175; Sonoma, 1,812; Stanislaus, 1,233, and Tulare, 1,689.

Alameda's cash disbursements average is the lowest for the state at \$30.72.

Each successive California Legislature has increased the benefits payable to the aged.

The state's Old Age Security Act of 1929 provided a minimum age of seventy at which the elderly could draw pensions. This was cut to sixty-five years in 1935. Pensions then were \$20 to \$35 monthly. The 1937 Legislature left the age limit at sixty-five, but reduced the required residence from fifteen to five years, adding in excess of fifty thousand to the eligible list.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, July 5, 1938.

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Free Syphilis Tests

All City Emergency Hospitals Again Open to Public

The regular Wednesday Wassermann tests for syphilis at all San Francisco's emergency hospitals will be given again tomorrow from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m., Dr. J. C. Geiger, city health officer, announced today.

Doctor Geiger reminded San Franciscans that these tests are free and confidential and are offered the public weekly, both for the benefit of individuals and also to determine the prevalence of syphilis in San Francisco.—*San Francisco News*, July 5, 1938.

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Supervisors Told How to Save Million Dollars

Counsel Rules Persons on Relief Can Be Sent to Other States If Kin Can Support Them

Estimated to give an annual saving within the county of about a million dollars if it can be made effective, legal opinion yesterday was given the Board of Supervisors that approximately sixteen hundred persons on relief rolls here can be sent back to other states if relatives there can support them.

Deputy County Counsel Claude McFadden, who submitted the ruling, ruled on the case of a woman who refused to return to the Oregon home of a brother, who was willing to support her. She is on relief here.

The ruling affects so-called technical nonresidents of the state under the state law which requires that persons coming here from other areas must be self-maintaining for at least three full years before applying for relief, if they are to perfect their California legal residence.

Executives of the county's department of charities have denied aid to many of these persons, forcing them on the rolls of private relief agencies, but no direct ruling was made until yesterday that county funds cannot be legally used in aiding these indigents, even if they have lived here for many years but have not been self-supporting for any three years of a period.—*Los Angeles Examiner*, July 6, 1938.

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Population in 1988 Mostly Middle-Aged

Washington, July 5.—(AP)—President Roosevelt made public tonight a report predicting that the American population, after attaining a peak of 158,000,000 by 1988, would

dwindle thereafter and would consist largely of old, or middle-aged people.

The prediction was made by the committee on population problems and was transmitted to the White House by the President's national resources committee.

The experts estimated that between 1935 and 1975, the number of persons twenty to forty-four years of age would increase only 6 per cent, whereas the number forty-five to sixty-four years old would increase 69 per cent.

Peak May Be 138,000,000

Persons over sixty-five, now comprising about 6 per cent of the population, will constitute 15 per cent of it in 1980. People under twenty, now about 37 per cent of the population, will be only about 25 per cent in 1980.

All this, the committee suggested, might be circumvented by relaxation of present bars to immigration and by a reversal of the diminishing birth rate, but in the long run a halt in the population increase might not be such a bad thing after all.

While the committee leaned toward a population estimate of 158,000,000 by 1988 it said there was a possibility that the peak might actually be 138,000,000 and that it might be reached as early as 1955.

Indians Increasing

Discussing births, the survey said white and Negro groups now are reproducing at about the same rates, while the American Indians are the most rapidly increasing racial stock in the country.

The report declared that the members of the committee, which included prominent students of population, eugenics, genetics, and sociology, were not advocating a general reduction in the size of families.

Instead, they favored lifting the burden of carrying individuals and families unable to support themselves off the back of individuals and families now paying the bills.

Then, the report added, the latter families would be able to raise more children, thus changing the present situation in which families on relief average many more children than the nonrelief groups.—*Los Angeles Examiner*, July 6, 1938.

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British Doctor Freed by Jury

London, July 19.—(INS)—Eminent doctors today applauded a jury's verdict freeing Dr. Aleck William Bourne, one of England's most noted gynecologists, of criminal charges because he spared a fifteen-year-old assault victim motherhood.

Doctor Bourne admitted performing an illegal operation upon the girl, victim of assault by a group of soldiers, and invited prosecution on behalf of the gynecologists of the nation.—*San Francisco Examiner*, July 20.

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Social Disease Work Outlined

Part of Federal Fund To Be Used to Help Those Unable to Pay

Washington, July 14.—(AP)—Government physicians today said that the major part of a new \$3,000,000 fund for control of venereal diseases will be devoted to treatment of persons who cannot pay for private care.

Members of the public health service's venereal diseases division said funds will be distributed to every state for use in buying medicines, establishing or aiding clinics, financing educational work or paying salaries of persons engaged in control activities.

For these purposes, \$2,400,000 will be divided among the states, in the present fiscal year, on a basis of population, financial needs and the extent of venereal disease.

The federal service is retaining \$600,000 for the development of prevention, treatment and control methods.—*Los Angeles Times*, July 18.

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British Doctors Threaten Strike

London, July 7.—(AP)—British doctors threatened a possible "stay-in strike" today to prevent admission of additional Austrian physicians to practice in this country.

Dr. A. Welply, general secretary of the Medical Practitioners Union, said if representations to members of the House of Commons failed "much more drastic action will be taken—something will be done to arouse the whole country; it may possibly develop into what is known as a stay-in strike."

Welply asserted foreign doctors were not required to study as long as qualified British physicians.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, July 8, 1938.

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U. S. to Survey California Welfare Outgo

A study by Washington authorities of how California is spending \$24,000,000 a year in federal funds on social welfare will begin shortly, it was disclosed here yesterday.

Miss Jane Hoey, director of the Social Security Board's bureau of public administration, is already in the state making final arrangements for the study. Eight experts will arrive from the East later this month to begin operations.

The woman director said the study had been requested by the State Social Welfare Board with the assent of Director Mrs. Florence Turner and Governor Merriam.

The study will concentrate in the metropolitan areas of San Francisco, Los Angeles and Alameda counties. A typical San Joaquin Valley county, however, also will be studied.

Relief workers in San Francisco will be checked to determine if they are functioning properly under the laws by which the Federal Government matches state funds.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, July 8, 1938.

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Letterman Hospital Addition Assured

Unofficial but authoritative advices that PWA construction of three new wings for Letterman General Hospital has been approved were received here yesterday by Representative Franck Havenner.

The additions, Havenner said, will replace the old wooden wards which line the front of the hospital and have been branded as fire menaces.

One new ward, Havenner said, will be for officers, one for women, and the third for enlisted men.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, July 8, 1938.

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Migrant Vote May Decide State Election

Majority of 221,000 Workers Eligible to Ballot†*

California's elections may be decided by the votes of migrant farm workers from the Midwest drought area and other states where agriculture and employment have been adversely affected by the Roosevelt recession.

With a large field of candidates for governor, lieutenant-governor and other state offices, as well as for the Legislature, minority nominees at the August primary election may land on top of the heap at the November general election by the votes of the newcomers, many of whom are recipients of government relief.

221,000 in State

According to the U. S. Farm Placement Bureau, more than 221,000 of these farm workers have entered California in the past thirty months. A large proportion of them have been here long enough to establish a voting residence. . . .

Balance of Power

"The drive," states Archie Closson, a Lodi farmer and a former American Legion commander, who is campaigning in the valleys for the Merriam forces, "has as its objective to bring about the defeat of the governor in the belief that the refugees, if they vote as a block, hold the balance of power in the coming elections.

"When we consider that state registrations this year are estimated at more than 3,200,000, it readily will be seen that such calculation is within the realm of possibility. The propaganda, of course, follows the familiar Communist formula of playing on the psychology of distressed and disheartened people."

"The situation," Closson declared, "would be more disturbing were it not for the character of the refugees themselves. Reports from the interior indicate that a large proportion, if not a majority, are earnest, industrious workers, anxious and willing to work. It is their misfortune and California's problem that they were led to come here, seeking work, at a time when there is not enough work to go around."—*San Francisco Chronicle*, July 26.

LETTERS

Concerning an American Museum of Health, Incorporated.

New York, June 11, 1938.

To the Editor:—One of the outstanding exhibits at the New York World's Fair, 1939, Incorporated, will be that of the \$400,000 Medical and Public Health Building, already erected on the Main Esplanade and adjacent to the Trylon and Perisphere—the Fair's Theme Center. Here will be displayed in one coördinated, carefully planned set of units numerous exhibits of unparalleled importance to the welfare of mankind.

At the conclusion of the Fair, it is expected that many of the exhibits displayed in the Medical and Public Health

* By Earl C. Behrens.

† For other comment, see page 155.